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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 16 July 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 July 1996, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 July 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 21 June 1996 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic" (A/50/981-S/1996/457).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations as to "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in my successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 23 May 1996 (A/50/963-S/1996/384, annex). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are fundamentally the same as those before, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate briefly, however, that flights and military exercises within, respectively, the airspace and territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the TRNC. The usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the south has no jurisdiction or right of say over this matter, under the false pretence that it has sovereignty over the whole island. This is clearly yet another indication of the continuing desire on the part of the Greek Cypriots to extend their sovereignty over the whole island and ultimately take over Cyprus.

Another aim of the Greek Cypriot administration in making these allegations is, as I have repeatedly pointed out before, to provide a smokescreen for its intensive militarization campaign in south Cyprus and its accompanying policy of escalation. As part of the implementation of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" with Greece, the Greek Cypriot side has recently stepped up this strategy of military escalation, thereby raising tensions in the island. As recently as the previous month, provocative military exercises code-named "Toxotis" (Bow) were held by the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece, in which A-7 and F-16 warplanes and frigates from the Greek air and naval forces took part in and around south Cyprus. The provocations of the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front continued last month as two warplanes of the Greek Air Force undertook flights over northern Cyprus at 1525 hours local time on 17 June 1996, violating the airspace of the TRNC by flying north of Akincilar village on the Esendağ-Gaziler-Arpalik route. Protests were made concerning these violations to the relevant authorities of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) at the local level.

These provocations, coupled with the Greek Cypriot side's persistent refusal to sit at the negotiating table, are unmistakable signs that the Greek Cypriot leadership is not interested in a negotiated settlement, but is preparing for new adventures, reminiscent of those it undertook jointly with Greece between 1963 and 1974, bringing about the present division in the island. It is ironic, to say the least, that the Greek Cypriot side should complain about "territorial integrity of the Republic" when they are the ones who not only caused the division of the country, but are also perpetuating it by their refusal to sit at the table to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

I trust that the international community, which desires a peaceful solution to this question, will warn the Greek Cypriot side about the inherent dangers of such an approach and impress upon them the need to resolve our problems by peaceful means.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus